



Euro Info

► ECHOES FROM THE LIFE OF THE EUROPEAN PROVINCE



Notre Dame de France, London

“To be more closely united, work more creatively, and act in greater solidarity we form one province beyond national limitations...”

GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

All the confreres in the province have been busy with gatherings in preparation for the provincial chapter this month.

The task of formulating other plans for the coming year leading up to that event has been just as important for committees. News of these is included below.

Suggestions you may have on making better use of EuroInfo are welcome.

Joaquín Fernández
Martin McAnaney

Bursars Meeting in Paris

From February 8th – 10th six regional bursars (one was unable to attend) met with the provincial and general bursars, and with the provincial and vicar provincial. Besides an exchange on the financial situation in each of the regions and the province, they discussed (a) financial administration in the regions and province, (b) contributions to the GA and the province, (c) a more harmonised system of accounting and reporting and (d) information about the financial review being undertaken at the general level in the Society. It is significant that towards the end, discussions turned to the importance of real solidarity within the province and with the wider Society of Mary.

K.Mowbray (GA), J.ter Braak (NI), L.d'Annebault (PA)

Bursars meeting – Paris



Meetings implementing the strategic orientations



Education

The coordination group for the next Education Forum (November 19th – 22nd) planned for Passau, gathered in that southern German city. The project is rapidly taking shape and details will be available soon. The Education Committee, now just one year old, met on February 8th to review its work, and to hear about the proposed program for the Passau Forum as well as the research into the link in the province between educational initiatives and disadvantaged people.

Solidarity with excluded and marginalised

Now that information on the Nijmegen Forum has been circulated in the last two issues of EuroInfo 40 and 41 (available on the website), the committee met in London on February 27th to consider different proposals for the coming year. These include on-going ways of supporting the ministry in the province and the importance of exploring a means for the province to collaborate with other organisations who share this focus.

Preparations for the chapter

Meetings have taken place in all the regions to identify the issues upon which the chapter needs to focus. Material generated is currently being considered by an editorial group. They will pass on the fruit of their work to the pre-capitular committee for their next meeting on March 5th – 7th. Some of you were asking about the availability of the video “Enriched communion for mission” which formed part of the material for the chapter preparations. You can access it on the internet at <http://vimeo.com/user9159968/videos>. Happy viewing!

Legislation Commission

The group gathered in Paris from January 30th to 31st. They considered submissions and reviewed the current Statutes. Subsequently they used the internet in a follow-up conference on Skype on February 24th, to work further on legislative proposals and to prepare a report of their work.



News from the Noviciate

Last month we had news of “arrivals” at Tutu. By now you will all be aware of the major changes that have taken place at the noviciate published in the special edition of Rome’s, SMbulletin, February 8th <http://secretariat.maristism.org/SMBulletin/2012%20English/SMBulletin120208.pdf>.

It has been difficult and disappointing for all concerned according to Tom Kouijzer (NL) and Fritz Arnold (De). It remains important for us to keep all those involved with the two groups of novices in our prayers. Fritz who remains at Tutu commented that dividing the group into two “has been the best solution”. You can read other comments in the latest edition of the Oceania bulletin: <http://www.maristocceania.org/Bulletins/Bulletins%202012/OB9-2012.jpg>.

Novitiate group at prayer, Tutu



Novitiate group, Tutu



Tom Kouijzer starting the novitiate, Tutu



Vocation Promotion in the Province

Marist and Missionary week at NDF, London -

Rafael Ramila (Es) writes:

“For the past 3 years the Marist Fathers of Notre Dame de France have organised a “Marist Week”. The goal is simple: to show the youth of the Chaplaincy at the French Lycée and the whole of NDF, by means of personal witness, the beauty of our Marist vocation. This year, from February 5th-10th, three Marists came to London to speak about their Marist vocation and their missionary experience: Sister Cristina Giustozzi smsm (originally from Italy, now residing in Lyon, France), Sister Aubierge Amoussou smsm

(originally from Benin, worked in Madagascar and Senegal, now also residing in Lyon) and Fr. Luigi Savoldelli sm (of the Italian region). The testimony of these three Marists has shown us the different ways in which God works to call his apostles: a deep desire for happiness and professional success, the will to serve the Church, to bring Jesus to others as Mary did...It is important for all of us to listen to God and to our hearts, remaining always open to the needs of the people of our world. We thank them for their simplicity, joy, attentiveness and devotion”.

Marists on the way to Compostella

A 12 days pilgrimage is on offer to young people in contact with the Marist Fathers of Europe and who participated at the WYD in León and Madrid. It is an opportunity to continue their spiritual and Marist journey. The idea is that it be a time of discernment to allow God to guide their personal life and vocation, to deepen their Marist spirituality and to experience fraternity. There will be times of getting to know each other, prayer together, walking the Camino in the spirit of a pilgrim, exchange on Marist values and of relaxation and recreation.



Dates: August: 4th to 7th in La Vecilla (León);
8th to 16th on the Camino to Compostella
(walking an average of 20 kms a day, with the backpack!).

Registration: before May 25th –
forms available through regional superiors.

Fee for the whole programme: € 290.00
(travel to and from Madrid not included).

Space is limited so please book now by contacting regional superiors or through Toño Fernández Sancha at:
jafs.sm@hotmail.com

European Province Annual Retreat 2012

Another reminder that it takes place
July 15th (19 h) to July 21st (morning) in La Neylière.

The theme: **“The Constitutions as a source of conversion and growth”**;
presenter Kevin Duffy sm, with
simultaneous translation in French and Italian.

Write it into your diaries now!
Registration form available on the website: www.maristeurope.eu

Obituary

F. Jean Huitorel (Fr)
22/02/2012
P. Gérard Noblet (Fr)
24/02/2012
P. Jean de Dinechin (Fr)
25/02/2012

